

GIVE ADEQUATELY IF AT ALL.

A cardinal principle in charitable relief is that when assistance is given it should be adequate to the need. Usually one Society gives so very little that the person or family in distress is compelled to resort to other agencies. Thus the charge of overlapping often arises. Better to help a fewer number and put them fairly on their feet than to partially aid a large number and leave none of them permanently relieved.

DOORSTEP CHARITY.

Giving charity on the street or at the door is always unsatisfactory because the truly deserving will seldom resort to that means of obtaining aid. From a long experience it can safely be said that three-fourths of the money given to these applicants is won by deception and is put to unworthy uses. But there will always be this careless giving of largess because human nature loves to patronize and many excuse themselves with the plea that it is better to fee a dozen rogues than turn away one who may possibly have good excuse for begging. If people will persist in favoring the importunate mendicant let them at least resolve never to help a child in this way for in so doing they invariably perpetuate a wrong standard and destroy the character and future usefulness of the boy or girl.

EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

To be out of work and to honestly desire employment is to live in the depths of despair. Many a man has committed crime and even taken his life because of this one thing. How important it is then that there should be nationally-organized depots so that men and boys having labor to sell can be quickly brought into touch with employers. Every municipality, every church, every moral agency should be in active co-operation with the labor exchange movement. When men are idle the whole social machinery is out of gear and charity has to step in and carry an unnecessary burden. The providing of employment should never be looked upon as a charitable undertaking for it is vital to the welfare of the whole community. In every large centre of population there should be a municipal committee or commission planning winter occupation for those whom cold weather deprives of their usual employment. Action is usually postponed until the problem is acute and then the only solution is charity.

THE CHURCH AND CHARITY.

There seems to be a consensus of opinion that charity is best administered by a special organization covering the whole field rather than by an individual church acting on its own responsibility. Originally the great bulk of relief was dispensed by the church but conditions have been steadily changing. If one could get a socially-educated church membership then it would be safe to say that there should be parish districts allotted, and each church held accountable for the poor within its bounds, but with so many different denominations having no close bond of